THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Funds provided to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) by the Government of India are used for educational purposes in order to improve the quality of school education.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Educational development programmes undertaken by the NCERT include :

(i) Curriculam development leading to production of textbooks, work books, teachers' guides' supplementary materials, etc.

(ii) Training programmes both at Pre-service and Inservice level.

(iii) Promotion of Educational Research.

(iv) Conduct of Educational Surveys.

(v) Support to programmes like District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) etc.

(vi) National Talent Search.

Year-wise details of the funds utilised by the NCERT from the grants released by the Government of India are as under :

		(Rs. in Lakhs)
1993-94	-	2568.67
1994-95	-	2744.28
1995-96	-	2473.84

Discovery of Gene

3371. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Scientists find gene that might help people lose weight" appearing in the "Times of India" dated March 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Obesity gene was identified three years age and several studies have been made on this aspect. The news item refers to one of the studies and its potential for the control of obesity through thermogenesis.

(c) Scientists at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad have developed a mutant rat model for study of obesity and the related problem. The potential of the proposed hypothesis could be studied in this model.

[Translation]

Funds to Colleges

3372. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has provided grants to colleges of different States during the last year;

(b) if so, the State-wise and college-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has made a provision or propose to provide amount of grants to the colleges of Gujarat during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, college-wise and item-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pancheswar Dam Project

3373. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Nepal has given its final consent for commencement of the work on Pancheswar Dam project;

(b) whether there is still any obstacle in the commencement of the above project; and

(c) the time by which the construction work of the said project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) In accordance with the Treaty signed between His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India, the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project is to be constructed in accordance with the Detailed Project Report being jointely prepared by the two countries.

(b) Discussions are in progress, on preparing a joint Detailed Project Report.

(c) The time by which the construction of the project is likely to be commenced would be known after the Detailed Project Report is jointly prepared.